

July 15, 2010

To the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing on this occasion of the **Title of the Hearing: Social Security at 75 Years** to congratulate our country on having this important and vital government program. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

This Offset provision significantly impacts my ability to live comfortably in retirement. I worked the first half of my working life as an upholsterer repairing furniture and paying into Social Security. I returned to college in my 40's and completed a Master's in education, focusing on adult education. I have worked in education for close to twenty years, specifically in the area of GED preparation and adult literacy. Most of that work was a teacher paying into the state of California Teachers' Retirement plan. I say most of that work because some of it was non-profits where I continued to pay into Social Security.

The teacher as a GED teacher was never tenured and I have been recently forced into early retirement due to the budget cuts in Adult Education. I have returned to work in the non-profit sector and will be continuing to work for several years again paying into Social Security.

I do feel I am being penalized in a most unfair way regarding my right to collect my full retirement benefits because I desired to work in education, specifically with a population that is most in need of education. To add further injury the services for that population have never been adequately or securely funded.

Thank you;

Shawn Usha

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